

PLAN_{the}
KEYSTONE

DOWNINGTOWN STATION AREA PLANNING CHARRETTE KICKOFF MEETING

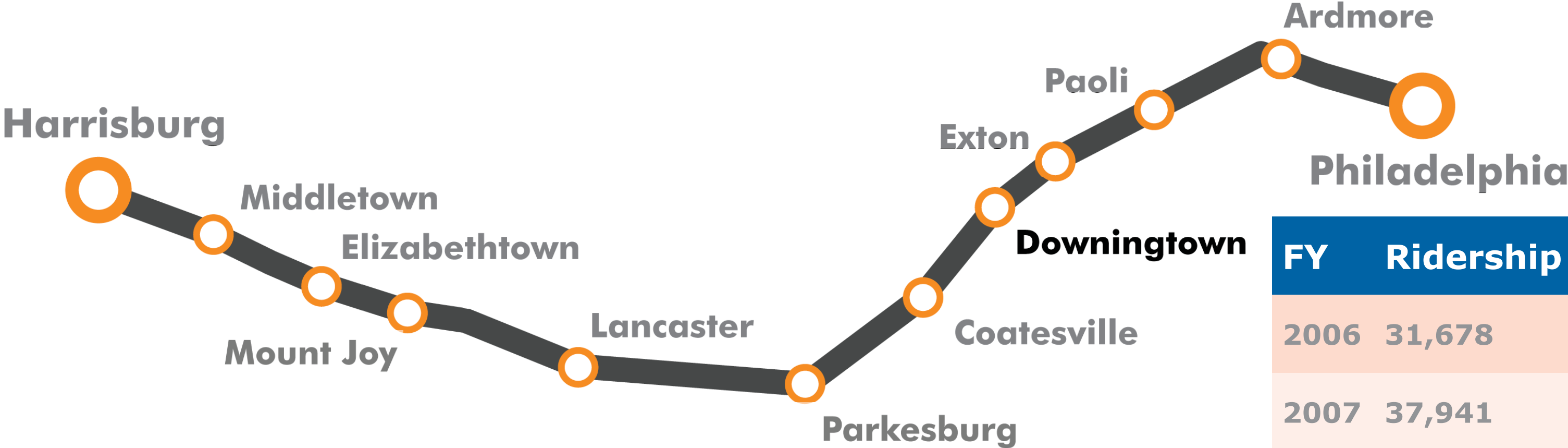


October 25, 2011, Downingtown Station Area Planning Charrette Kickoff Meeting

- **Introduce** the Project
- Summarize **Project Approach and Schedule**
- Discuss **What We've Heard So Far**
- Get Your Input On **Values and Themes**





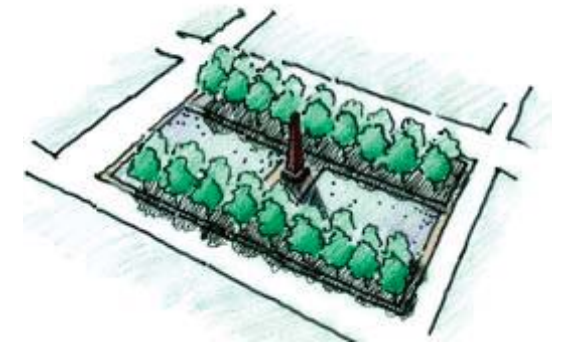
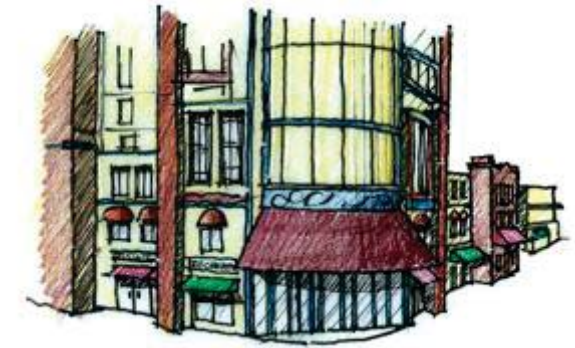
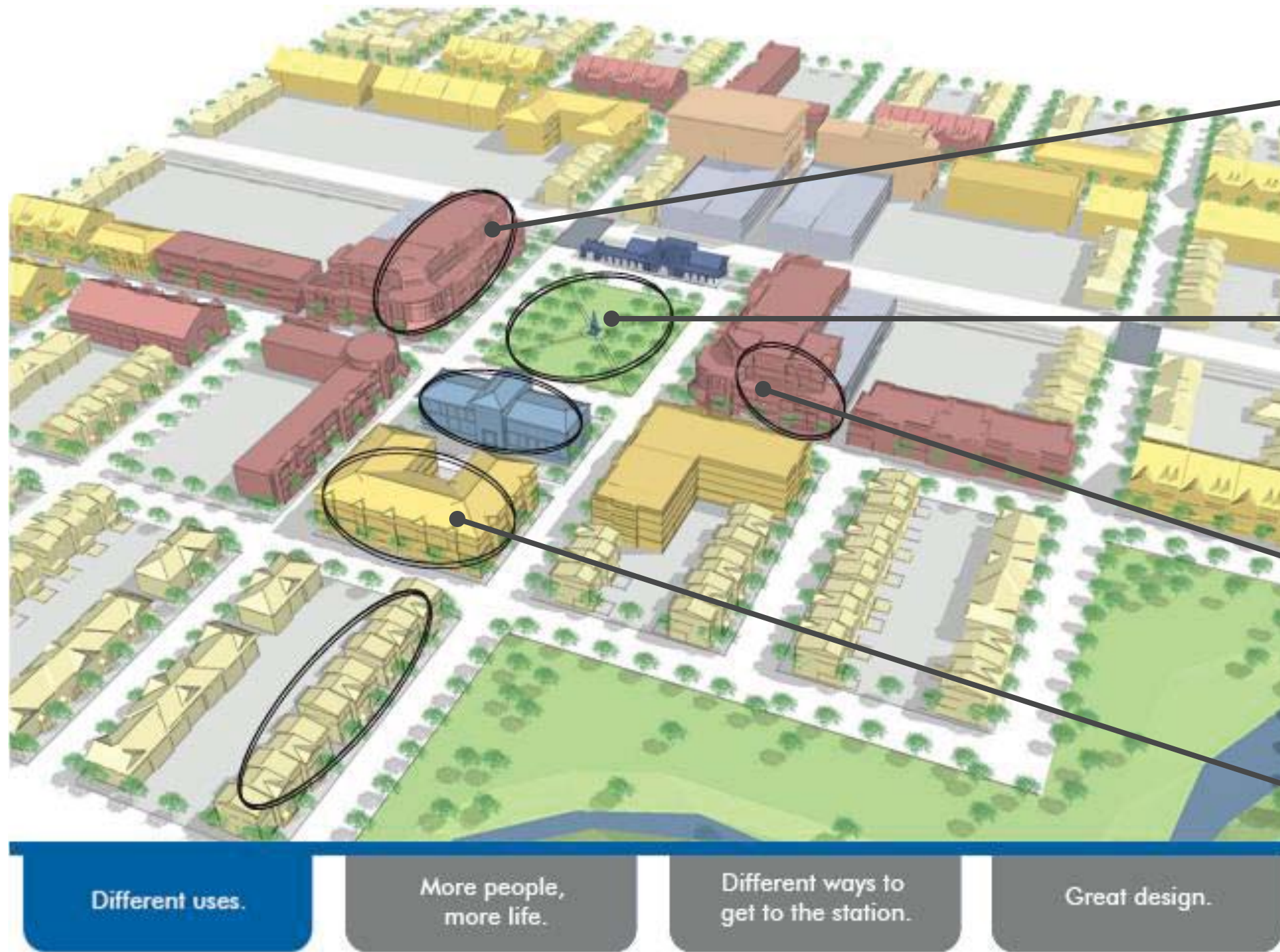


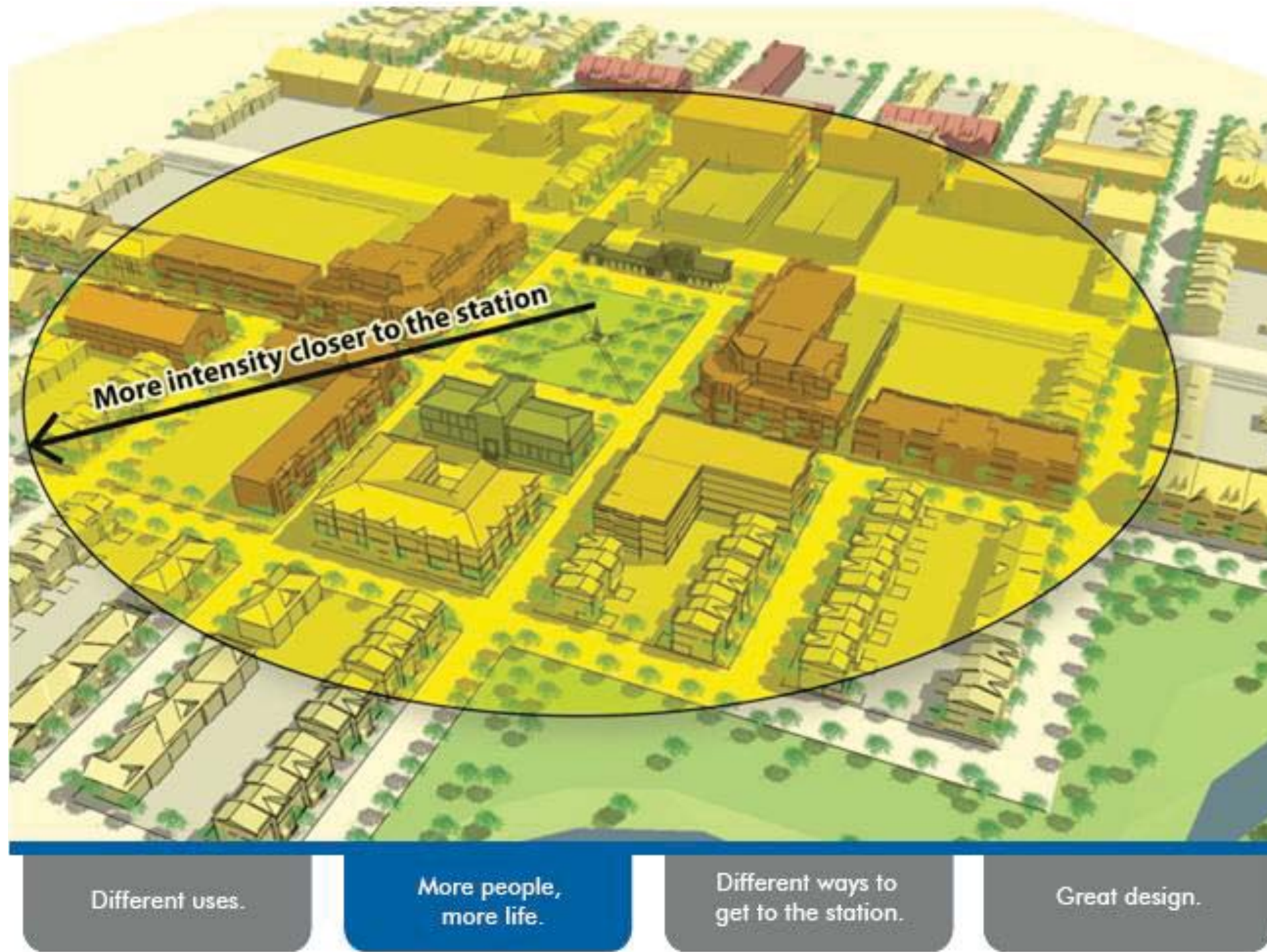
Plan the Keystone is a study to identify infrastructure investments for the Keystone stations and their surrounding areas with the goal of enhancing the transit service and strengthening the communities served by the Keystone Line. This effort is being done in close collaboration with municipalities along the Keystone Line.

FY	Ridership
2006	31,678
2007	37,941
2008	50,255
2009	51,822
2010	59,129

- **Follow “Smart Transportation” principles**
- **Involve the public early and often**
- **Funding Provides Leverage**
- **ADA shouldn’t be an after thought**

Transit Oriented Development





Transit Oriented Development

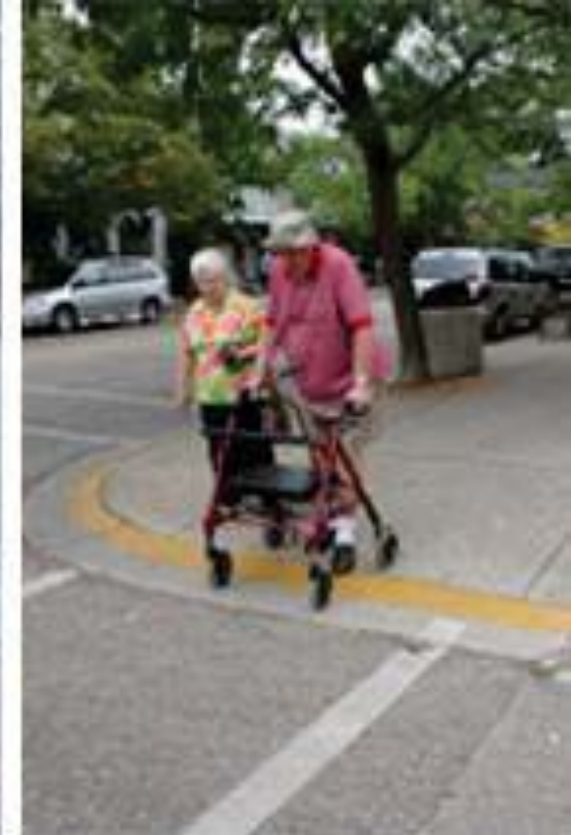


Different uses.

More people,
more life.

Different ways to
get to the station.

Great design.



Transit Oriented Development



Different uses.

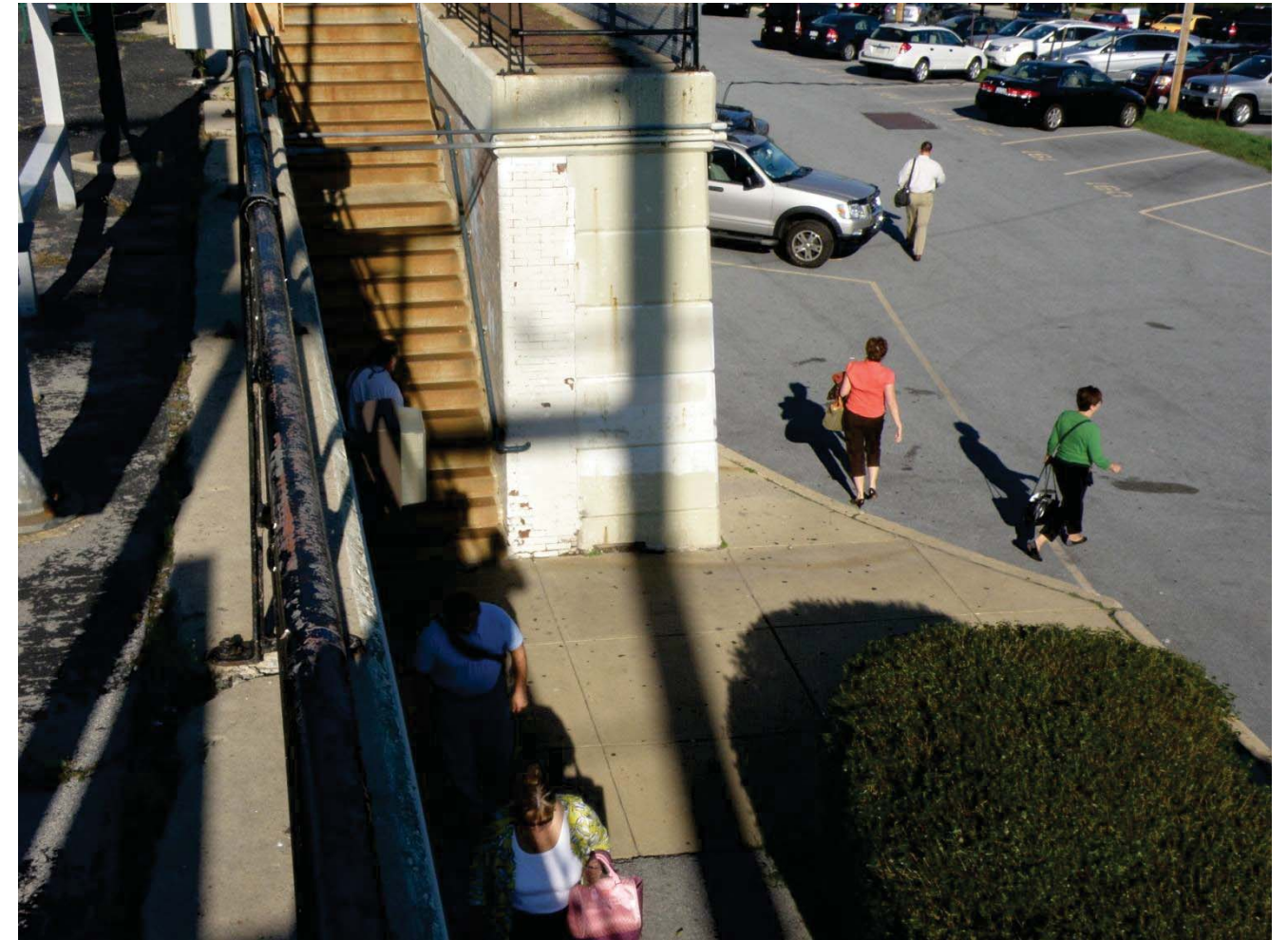
More people,
more life.

Different ways to
get to the station.

Great design.

The Downingtown Station

- **Station stop for Amtrak and Septa**
- **Bordered by Johnsontown on the south and Lancaster Ave on the north**
- **Part of the Keystone Opportunity Zone to help encourage redevelopment**
- **Current station and pedestrian tunnel are not ADA compliant**





Downingtown Station



What is the essence of Downingtown?

We need your help defining the image, experience, and vision for the station area.

- Physical Improvements
- Economic Development
- Pedestrian Experience
- And more...



What are we designing?

Primary Assignments:

- Identify Improvements for the Amtrak Station
- Identify Specific Recommendations for the Station Area
- Establish a brand and identity for the Station Area
- Promote Strategies for a Walkable Downtown that is supportive of Transit

What We Have Done So Far



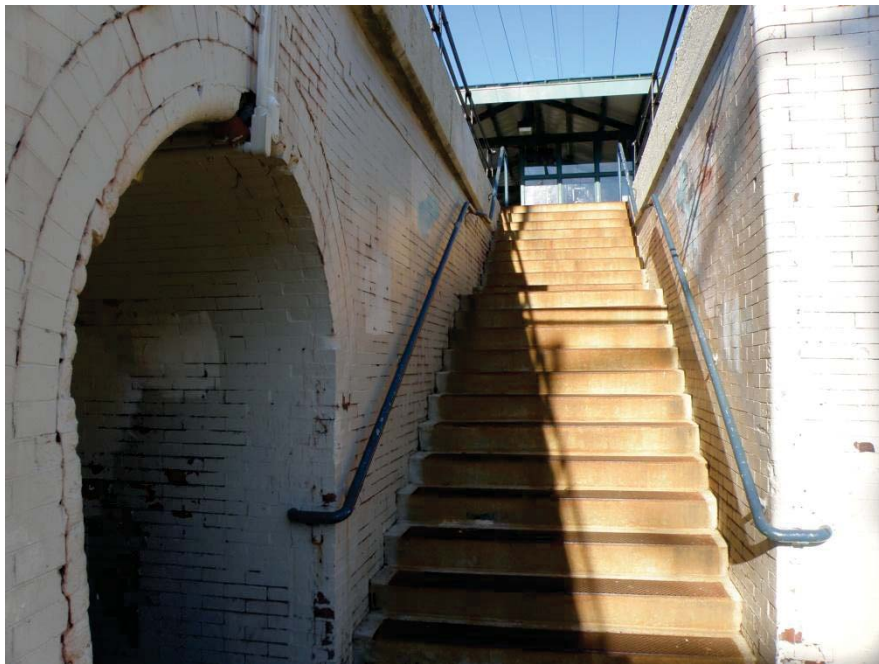
- **Field view**
- **Background information**
- **Stakeholder Interviews**

What Have We Heard?



Improve the Station

- Too many “hiding spots” at current location
- Current station not ADA compliant
- Parking at the current station nearly at capacity
- Pedestrian tunnel is dirty
- Pedestrian tunnel is scary (stairs)
- Poor lighting
- Parking on north side of tracks fills up quickly
- Commuters park in Johnsontown Park and take spaces away from park users
- No station building – just covered shelters
- Station often target of graffiti
- Current station lacks passenger amenities
- Cracks in paving of platforms
- Would like to see a coffee shop or associated retail at station
- Viaduct Ave one-lane tunnel makes access challenging
- Few bike facilities at station



What Have We Heard?



Leverage Station Investment to Improve the Downtown Economy

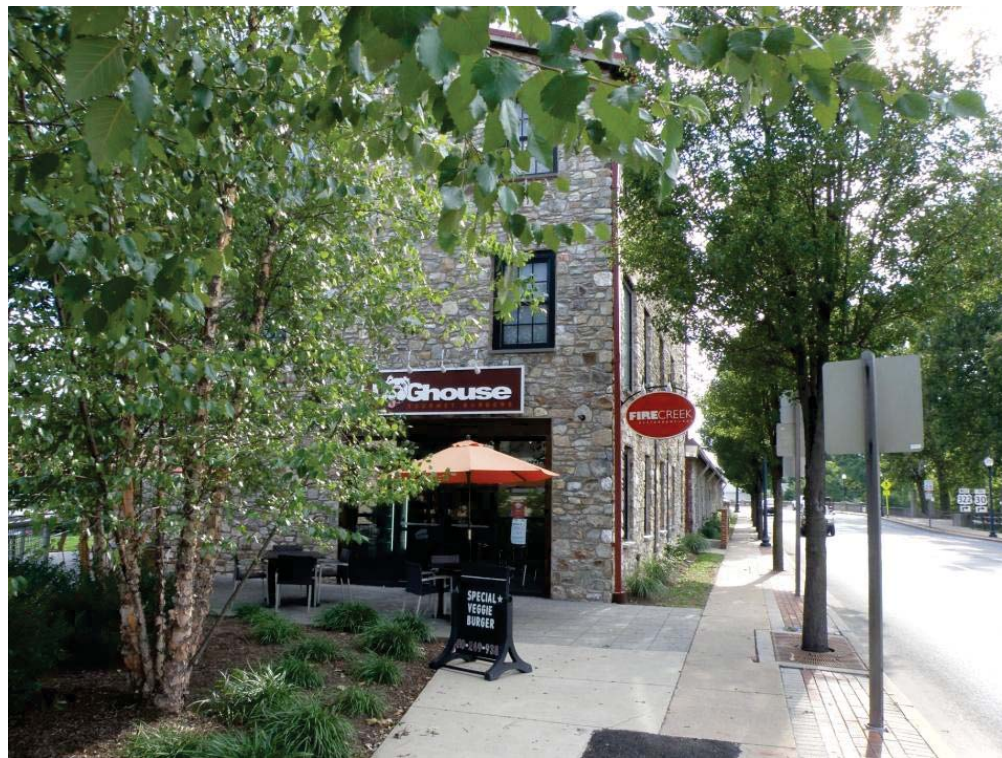
- Support existing redevelopment efforts in town (Fire Creek development, etc)
- Foster new business development (currently a lot of vacant store fronts on Lancaster Ave)
- Build transit-oriented development with station improvements
- Improve streetscapes
- Improve commercial activity in current station location
- Improve currently vacant rail yard KOZ site
- Increase property values

What Have We Heard?



Connect the Station to the Downtown and the Region

- Connect with major routes 30, 322, etc.
- Improve local and regional wayfinding to all destinations
- Provide priority bicycle corridors
- Ensure bus connections to station
- Connect station to trail network (currently many recreational bike riders in Downingtown)
- Provide more parking in downtown



What Have We Heard?



Improve Access and Mobility in Downtown

- Improve pedestrian and vehicular access between Johnstown and the downtown
- Route 322 truck issues: trucks frequently get stuck in Brandywine tunnel; Chestnut Street bridge planned for replacement
- Signal at Lancaster Ave and 322 often causes back ups
- Sidewalk in Brandywine tunnel but dangerous for pedestrians
- Ensure station is walkable for residents
- Consider a bike share or bike rental program at station
- Provide areas for overnight parking



What are we doing this week?

Monday – 6:30pm

Opening Presentation and Visioning Exercise

Let us know what is important to you as we look at station upgrades and improvements to area around the station. This is your chance to guide the urban design of your community.





What are we doing this week?

**Tuesday –
2pm to 7:30pm**

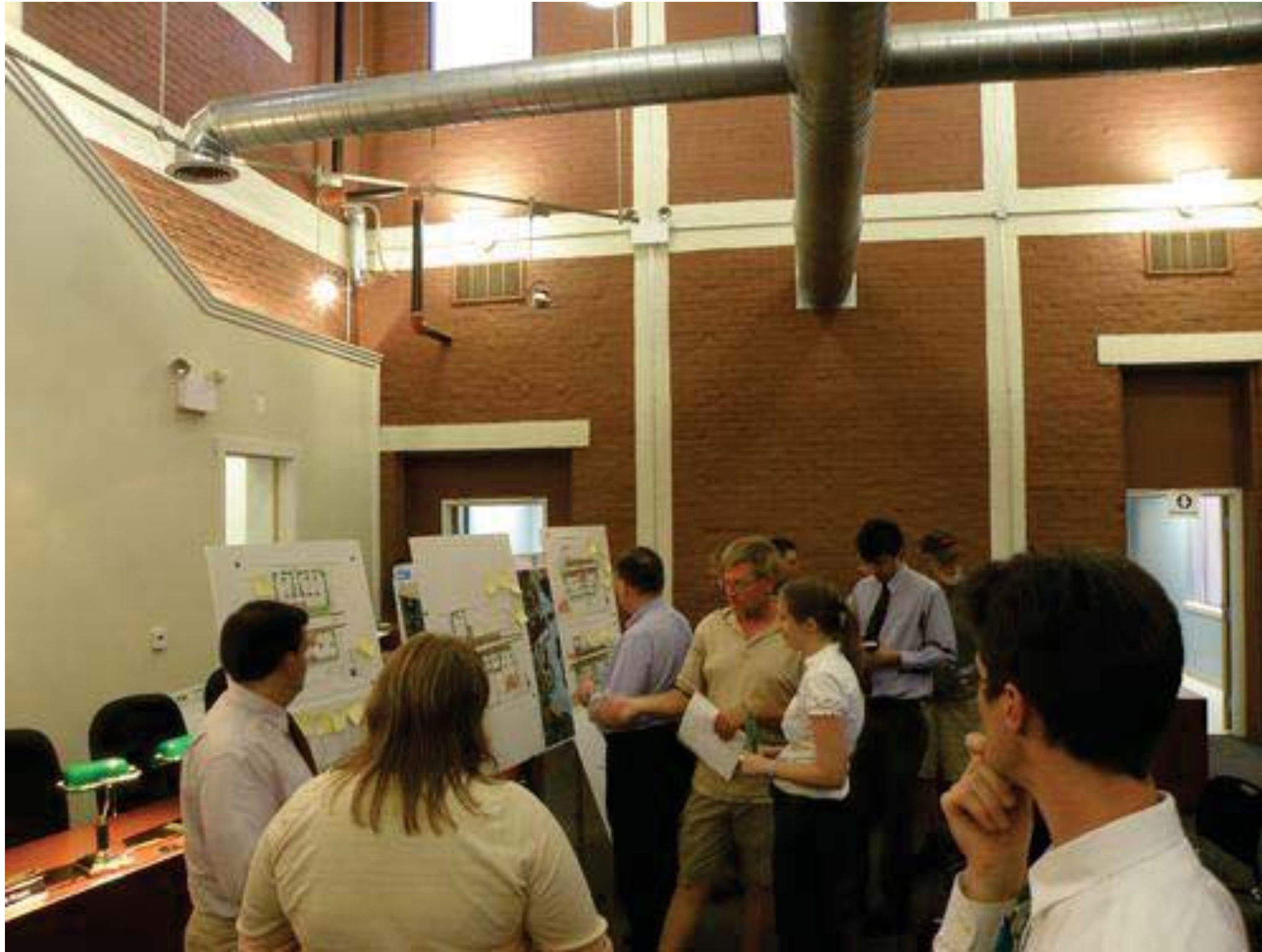
**Wednesday –
9am to 3pm**

**Thursday –
9am to 12pm**

**Downingtown
Borough Building**

Informal Design Sessions

Stop in and develop plans with the design team – give us your ideas and feedback to improve designs.



**What are we
doing this
week?**

Thursday – 6:00pm

**Downingtown
Borough Building**

**Work-in-Progress
Pin Up Presentation**

Hear the design team outline the initial proposals developed with your help – give us your feedback to improve the concepts.

Values and Opportunities



What do you
value about
Downtown?

What
opportunities
do you see for
the Borough?

Please list these on the
sheets on your table.

How do we advance the themes?

<u>Improve the Station</u> <i>What are some ideas that you have for ways to improve the train station?</i>
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•

<u>Improve Access and Mobility</u> <i>What are some ways to improve access to the train station and mobility around the station and the downtown?</i>
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•

<u>Connect the Station</u> <i>What are some ways to connect the train station to the downtown and the region?</i>
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•

<u>Leverage Station Investment to Improve the Downtown Economy</u> <i>How can station improvements help revitalize Downtown?</i>
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•

Through initial meetings with stakeholders, we developed three themes. **We need your comments and thoughts on each theme.**

On the sheets at your table, tell us what things should be considered to bring the themes to reality, and anything we have left out.

A public involvement tool that allows individuals to comment on posts from the design team. It can be accessed at:

www.planthekeystone.com

And choosing the **CONNECT** tab.

The screenshot shows the Plan the Keystone Connect website. The header features the logo "PLAN_{the} KEYSTONEconnect" with "connect" in green. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Archives, Subscribe, and Return to www.planthekeystone.com. The main content area is dated "10/10/2011" and features a green headline: "PUBLIC INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING DOWNINGTOWN TRAIN STATION COMMUNITY WORKSHOP". The text below the headline reads: "Would you like to share your vision for the new Downingtown Train Station? Join the Plan the Keystone team for an interactive community workshop later this month to develop designs for the station and identify ways to improve access and passenger amenities." It then states: "The workshop will consist of opening night and closing night presentations and three days of drop-in working sessions. The schedule is as follows:" followed by a bulleted list:

- Monday, Oct. 24 - 6:30 p.m. - Opening Presentation.
- Tuesday, Oct. 25 - 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Drop-in Working Session
- Wednesday, Oct. 26 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Drop-in Working Session
- Thursday, Oct. 27 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Drop-in Working Session; 6:00 p.m. – Work-in-Progress Presentation

 The text continues: "The workshop will be held at the Downingtown Borough Hall located at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue. There is a parking lot located behind the building." and "Feel free to attend all portions of the workshop or stop in when convenient! We look forward to working with you on this exciting opportunity for Downingtown!" On the right side, there is a "RECENT COMMENTS" section with four entries, each starting with a name and a link to a post titled "MP on DOWNINGTOWN STATION PROJECT KICKS OFF AND LOOKING FOR YOUR INPUT".

Workshop Schedule



What are we doing this week?

**Tuesday –
2pm to 7:30pm**

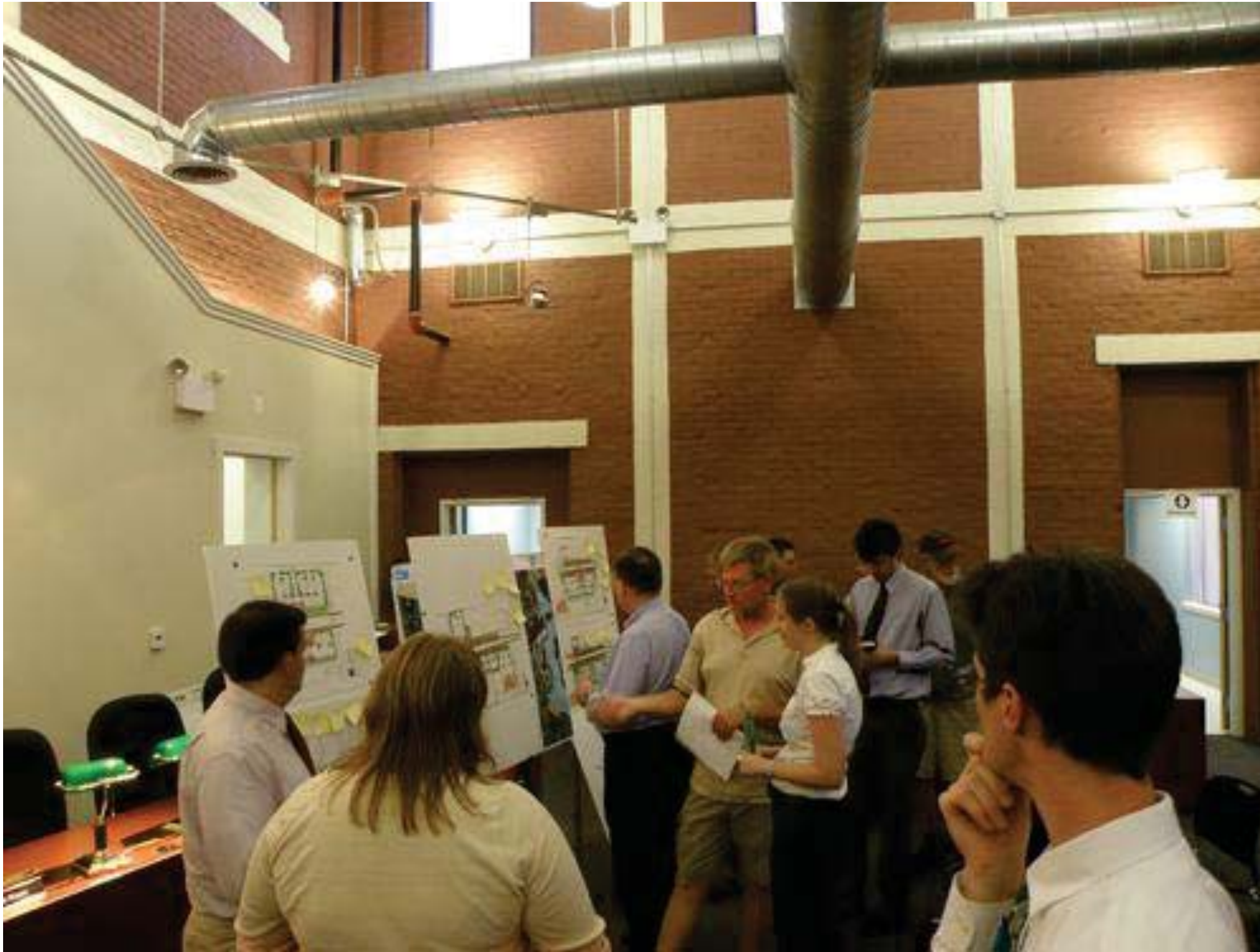
**Wednesday –
9am to 3pm**

**Thursday –
9am to 12pm**

Downingtown Borough Building

Informal Design Sessions

Stop in and develop plans with the design team – give us your ideas and feedback to improve designs.



**What are we
doing this
week?**

Thursday – 6:00pm

**Downingtown
Borough Building**

**Work-in-Progress
Pin Up Presentation**

Hear the design team outline the initial proposals developed with your help – give us your feedback to improve the concepts.